

HONORING HERBERT ALLEN, SR.

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 8, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a long standing black farmer, Mr. Herbert Allen, Sr. of "Allen Farm". He and his family are residents of Silver City in Humphreys County, MS where generations of Allens have been farming since the 1940s, which gives them over 70 years.

The story of the Allen family as black farmers includes major setbacks, but they are still in operation today. Grandpa Nathan Allen started with 40 acres of land in an effort to provide a decent living for himself, his wife, and 6 children. After he died, his son Herbert Allen, Sr. began operating the 40-acre farm and grew it into 323 acres. Herbert and his wife, Nomie, raised 9 children on that small and hard to come by income because again the challenges of the black families were real. In fact they raised most of the food they used to feed their family.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, the odds have been great and many: Depression, rainy and dry crop years with little to sometimes no government compensation, floods, bad loans, too little loans, and other unfortunate things, but again, through it all they survived.

Herbert Allen, Sr. operated the farm for over 50 years until his death in 2006, then Herbert, Jr. and his brother, Freddie, took over the operation. Although the two brothers managed the daily affairs, it was still a family affair involving all the siblings. There are several spin-off businesses that have been developed: Allen Recycling (Canton and Yazoo City, MS), Allen Heating and Air (Gulfport, MS), and Allen Cattle Ranch (Silver City, MS).

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Mr. Herbert Allen, Sr., a black farmer from Mississippi's Second Congressional District.

PAGE LAMBERT**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 8, 2014

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Page Lambert for her outstanding service and commitment to our community.

Page's motto—Connecting People with Nature; Connecting Writers with Words—describes her passion and her life. For 17 years, she has partnered with professional organizations such as True Nature Journeys, Grand Canyon Field Institute, and the Aspen Writers' Foundation to help women connect more creatively with the natural world. Page serves as an advisor to national writing organizations and nonprofits such as the Children & Nature Network and Women Writing the West. She also donates services locally—co-leading a two-year volunteer effort to build a community horse barn for Mount Vernon using fire-mitigation timber, and serving as Creative Consultant for the Clear Creek Land Conservancy, helping to foster a deeper appreciation for Colorado's open spaces.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Page Lambert for her well deserved honor by the West Chamber serving Jefferson County. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all her future accomplishments.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION**HON. KENNY MARCHANT**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 8, 2014

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, due to my plane flight to Washington, DC being canceled yesterday, I was unable to vote for the Quorum Call of January 7, 2014. Had my flight not been canceled, I would have answered the Quorum Call as "present."

"E. CLAY SHAW: A CONGRESSMAN WHO MATTERED," BY JIM MARTIN

HON. JOHN L. MICA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 8, 2014

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share with my colleagues a eulogy Jim Martin, a good friend and former Chief of Staff to the late Senator Edward Gurney (R-FL), wrote recalling the great and influential life in public service of former Florida Congressman E. Clay Shaw, Jr. As all remember, our friend Clay passed away on September 10, 2013. His legacy will transcend generations, as you can see in the words shared by Jim, the founder and chairman of the 60 Plus Association.

E. CLAY SHAW: A CONGRESSMAN WHO MATTERED

(By Jim Martin)

The barber nearly lopped off the congressman's ear, but it wouldn't have been his fault if he had. For years, the tacit agreement that exists between every barber and customer to sit still as a statue when the clippers are humming was fiercely observed. But the barber said something that startled the normally reserved lawmaker to suddenly spin his head around mid-snip.

"Congressman," the barber offered, "I've been voting for you a long time, but this year I'm making a donation to your campaign." In a world of big campaign contributions, a modest offering of a few dollars is hardly noteworthy, unless you consider the source. Rep. Eugene Clay Shaw, Jr.'s hometown barber in Fort Lauderdale, FL was 68 years old and closed his shop the last few months of the year. Far from rich and not particularly political, his pronouncement all but floored his long-time customer.

But this was a special occasion. Under Shaw's leadership, Congress had just passed historic legislation, signed into law by President Bill Clinton in 2000, that removed a Depression-era law that cut Social Security benefits for seniors who earned more than \$17,000 per year. Though little-regarded by some, this legislation had a huge impact on working seniors, and further struck a blow for American productivity and common-sense, bipartisan solutions to intractable government inertia.

With Shaw's passing this month at the age of 74, the tributes honoring his 26-year career in Congress invariably focus on his welfare

reform legislation, implementing a federal missing-child registry and various environmental protections, all of which were monumental in their own right. But seniors are forever grateful for the dogged determination Shaw displayed as chairman of the House Social Security Subcommittee when he took on a law long past its expiration date.

As chairman of a national seniors organization, and having grown up in the Fort Lauderdale/Hollywood part of Rep. Shaw's district, and having testified on his legislation, I was at the front lines cheering when this law passed, and recall that Shaw shared with me many of the reactions from working seniors. "People would think I was rich and off fishing somewhere," Shaw's barber told him at the time, "because my shop was closed the last months of the year. It just made no sense to stay open, as I was essentially working for free. This way, thanks to your legislation, I can continue to earn money which I can then happily spend at Christmas on gifts for our grandkids."

Upon his return to Washington after a routine recess, Clay related to me not only his barber's reaction, but also the response he received from a 66-year-old waitress who served him breakfast one morning. "Mr. Shaw, I had to tell my manager I couldn't work the last months of the year, as I made no money. Fixing this law is a huge relief to me, my boss and my regular customers who often ask for me during my absence."

While Congress is always an easy target at which to aim our nation's considerable political frustrations, it's important to remember and honor dedicated public servants like Clay Shaw who got up every day intending to use their clout to bridge the aisle to make life better for the people back home. Shaw was also congressman to my favorite senior, my mother.

His career harkens back to a day—just a few decades ago though it seems like ages—when institutional knowledge meant something, and political clout was more frequently a tool of bipartisan cooperation. Shaw is in the company of congressmen such as Republican Henry Hyde of Illinois and Democrat Dante Fascell of Miami, and many others now long gone who didn't mind a good fight, but would never let their differences prevent them from banding together to do the right thing on behalf of the people back home.

America has 60 million senior citizens with more than 10,000 joining our ranks every day. All of them, as well as those soon to join our ranks, owe a debt of gratitude and thanks to the gentleman from Broward County. He and his kind are sorely missed.

HONORING FRANK WILBOURN**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 8, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a prodigal farmer, Frank Wilbourn.

Mr. Wilbourn was born and raised in Marks, MS. He is 71 years old and has the ageless quality of someone with natural wisdom and a generous spirit. At age 22, he took the road north for the promise of better paying jobs. After returning home from 23 years of working in the steels mills of Milwaukee, he bought his father's farm and began life as one of the few local organic produce growers and the only local organic produce seller in the town. This land was purchased by his parents in 1939.